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Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 10/568,522

Confirmation No.: 2954

Filed: 15 February 2006

For: PRESSURE-SENSITIVE ADHESIVE TAPE AND PRESSURE-SENSITIVE ADHESIVE COMPOSITION
FOR MEDICAL ADHESIVE TAPE

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1. (Currently Amended) A pressure-sensitive adhesive composition for medical pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes, comprising a base polymer containing a pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer obtained by crosslinking or curing a precursor containing a urethane acrylate oligomer having a carboxyl group and an ultraviolet (UV) initiator, wherein the ultraviolet initiator is present in an amount of less than 1.5% by weight based on the total amount of the adhesive composition, said base polymer having a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 0°C or less, wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition further comprises a hindered phenol-based antioxidant agent in an amount of 0.03 to 1% by weight based on the total amount of the adhesive composition.

2. (Original) The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises a plasticizer.

3. (Previously Presented) The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said urethane acrylate oligomer is an oligomer obtained by reacting a mixture containing a polyalkylene glycol, an organic isocyanate having two or more isocyanate groups, and a compound having both a functional group reactive with the isocyanate group and a (meth)acryloyl group, and a compound having both a functional group reactive with the isocyanate group and a carboxylic group.

4. (Original) The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 3, wherein the content of the unit derived from the compound having both a functional group reactive with

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the isocyanate group and a (meth)acryloyl group in said urethane acrylate oligomer is from 0.35 to 0.6 mol%.

5. (Original) The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein the content of said unit is from 0.40 to 0.45 mol%.

6. (Previously Presented) The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein said plasticizer is a hydrophilic plasticizer having, as the hydrophilic group, a hydroxyl group capable of hydrogen-bonding to a carboxyl group.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said precursor contains said ultraviolet (UV) initiator in an amount of 0.01 to 1.0 mass% based on the mass of said urethane acrylate oligomer.

10. (Previously Presented) A medical pressure-sensitive adhesive tape comprising a highly moisture-permeable substrate having thereon the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition claimed in claim 1.

11. (Previously Presented) A medical pressure-sensitive adhesive tape consisting of a layer of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition claimed in claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a pressure-sensitive adhesive composition for medical pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes, comprising:

mixing a pressure-sensitive adhesive composition precursor containing a urethane acrylate oligomer having a carboxyl group and an ultraviolet (UV) initiator, wherein the

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ultraviolet initiator is present in an amount of less than 1.5% by weight based on the total amount of the adhesive composition,

heating said adhesive composition precursor at a temperature of 50°C to less than 100°C to form a coating solution having a viscosity of 2,000 to 100,000 mPa·s, and

applying said coating solution to a substrate and thereafter, crosslinking or curing said urethane acrylate oligomer to form a base polymer having a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 0°C or less;

wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition further comprises a hindered phenol-based antioxidant agent in an amount of 0.03 to 1% by weight based on the total amount of the adhesive composition.

13. (Currently Amended) A pressure-sensitive adhesive composition for medical pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes, comprising a base polymer containing a pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer obtained by crosslinking or curing a precursor containing a urethane acrylate oligomer having a carboxyl group and an ultraviolet (UV) initiator, wherein the ultraviolet initiator is present in an amount of less than 1.5% by weight based on the total amount of the adhesive composition, said base polymer having a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 0°C or less; and a plasticizer; wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition further comprises a hindered phenol-based antioxidant agent in an amount of 0.03 to 1% by weight based on the total amount of the adhesive composition.

14. (Previously Presented) The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein said urethane acrylate oligomer is an oligomer obtained by reacting a mixture containing a polyalkylene glycol, an organic isocyanate having two or more isocyanate groups, and a compound having both a functional group reactive with the isocyanate group and a (meth)acryloyl group, and a compound having both a functional group reactive with the isocyanate group and a carboxylic group.

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15. (Previously Presented) The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein the content of the unit derived from the compound having both a functional group reactive with the isocyanate group and a (meth)acryloyl group in said urethane acrylate oligomer is from 0.35 to 0.6 mol%.

16. (Previously Presented) The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein said plasticizer is a hydrophilic plasticizer having, as the hydrophilic group, a hydroxyl group capable of hydrogen-bonding to a carboxyl group.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The pressure-sensitive adhesive composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein said precursor contains said ultraviolet (UV) initiator in an amount of 0.01 to 1.0 mass% based on the mass of said urethane acrylate oligomer.

19. (Previously Presented) A medical pressure-sensitive adhesive tape comprising a highly moisture-permeable substrate having thereon the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition claimed in claim 13.

20. (Previously Presented) A medical pressure-sensitive adhesive tape consisting of a layer of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition claimed in claim 13.